GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3962
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2016
Synthetic Drugs
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of synthetic drugs are on the rise in the country;

(b) whether synthetic drugs have an adverse impact on the health of humans and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is taking any step to check its adverse impact, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of existing rules related to manufacturing of synthetic drugs?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b): No such information is centrally maintained. However, it is believed that there has been a rise in the availability of synthetic drugs including synthetic cannaboids, cathinones and synthetic hallucinogens. These are not yet as common as alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, opiod like drugs, prescription drugs and inhalant substances. The recent National Mental Health Survey did not pick up notable instances of synthetic drug use. There are a large number of harmful effects on the human health both physical and psychological from the use of synthetic drugs, especially synthetic cannabinoids including severe anxiety, paranoia and hallucinations and are also known to precipitate psychiatric disorders like schizophrenia to those who are vulnerable. However, very little is known about the dangers of other synthetic drugs.

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(c) & (d): Under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the National Drug De-addiction Programme runs with a very specific target to mitigate the health problems of addicts of drug/ substance/ alcohol abuse through medical treatment and counselling at government hospitals/ drug de-addiction centres. The National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre(NDDTC) at Ghaziabad, under AIIMS, New Delhi is the national nodal centre for this programme. The NDDTC receives regular annual recurring grants-in-aid from the Ministry. Other Central Government hospitals receiving regular annual recurring financial assistance under this programme are Drug De-addiction centres at PGIMER, Chandigarh, and NIMHANS, Bangalore.

A "Central Sector Scheme of Assistance for Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drugs) Abuse" has been implemented by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for providing composite / integrated services for the rehabilitation of alcohol and drug addicts.

Further, the Department of Revenue, has the nodal co-ordination role as administrator of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988. The Narcotics Control Bureau under the Ministry of Home Affairs, is the apex coordinating agency for co-ordination of actions by various offices, State Governments and other authorities under the NDPS Act, Customs Act, Drugs and Cosmetics Act and any other law for the time being in force in connection with the enforcement provisions of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Under the provision of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules, 1945 made thereunder, State Licensing Authorities appointed by State Governments are empowered to grant license for manufacture for sale or distribution of drugs. However, for new drug, permission under Rule 122B is required from Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) before obtaining manufacturing License from the States.
New drugs are approved and allowed to be manufactured and marketed in India based on their safety and efficacy assessment.
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